

Infurcitinea argentimaculella Staint.
(Lep. Tineidae) in Herts.

By E. S. BRADFORD

On Sunday the 18th of July I paid a visit to a private lake and grounds in the Elstree area of Herts with Mr P. A. Goddard. This is managed by a local angling society, and last year I was granted permission to visit and study the entomology of the area whenever I wished. I had visited the grounds several times before, but on this particular day, after a walk round the boundary of the main lake, and proving our Bona fide to a water bailiff, I suggested we have a look round a smaller side-water I had not previously inspected. About half way round we came to a place where rocks covered a raised structure, opening on to the lake, and which forms a boat-house. Around this we found patches of lichen. I was struck by the similarity between this area and the one in Folkestone, Kent, where I had found and bred *I argentimaculella* Staint., in 1964. A closer inspection of the lichen showed that the surface had been nibbled away leaving whitish patches and I remarked that it was the type of place where one would be likely to find the moth, never thinking at that moment, that it was there, right under our noses. I looked at the lichen again and saw the thin meandering tubes the larvae make on the surface, and then found a moth, and a little later one more specimen.

I paid another brief visit to the lake several days later and found six moths resting on the lichen and on the moss growing around and with it, the same as it does in Folkestone. The moths are much more difficult to see when resting on the moss.

The question occurred as to the origin of the rocks and I subsequently made enquiries about them. It appears that they were transported from Devon about eighty years ago and that the lake was dug and constructed during the 1914-18 war by P.O.W.'s. The rocks were incorporated in the structure of the boat-house, at the edges of the lake, and as stepping stones at various places. Whether the lichen and the moths were in situ when brought from Devon will have to remain speculative.

The lichen which forms the pabulum of *I. argentimaculella* Staint. is *Lepraria incana* (L.) Ach. (*Lepraria* (*Crocynia*) *aeruginosa* auct.)

At the time of writing I know of no other record of its occurrence in Hertfordshire so presume this to be new to the county. I would be pleased to hear if anyone has any notes on its being taken in any other localities.

References

- Bradford, E. S. *Ent. Record*, 75: 245.
Brightman, F. H. *The Lichenologist*. 3: 154 Nov. 1965.